TERRITORY TOPS NATION FOR SCHOOL RESOURCES

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour today welcomed new figures showing the Northern Territory had the highest expenditure per student on government school education among all states and territories.

Ms Scrymgour said the Commonwealth’s report on Government Services also showed that the Territory had the lowest student teacher ratio of any jurisdiction.

“These figures reflect the extra resources we are putting into our education system to give our students the best educational opportunities,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“This week we are witnessing the start of the new Middle School program, with its greater focus on literacy and numeracy and support for students.

“Extra resources and facilities are a central part of the Government’s $88.7 million Building Better Schools program – which is improving facilities across the Territory.”

Ms Scrymgour said the report showed more work needed to be done to lift literacy and numeracy across the Territory.

“We need to remember that literacy and numeracy results are influenced by factors such as the number of students who have English as a second language and the number of students attending remote and very remote schools,” she said.

“For example, 45 per cent of NT students attend remote or very remote schools compared to the national average of just over two per cent.”

“And we also have many Indigenous students attending our schools who have English as a second language – a big factor in the rate of learning.”

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